

stitutional conditions which kept him from settling the question as quickly as Waldeck expected.

I am quite convinced that you need troops, and I do not doubt that in a short time I can send you some, both from the forces of this country and from those I brought with me. I would send you all of them, but so long as things are in their present state, I am sure that if you were here on the spot and knew as much as I know you would not advise me to send them. Yesterday the Lords met and resolved to ask me to take over the government of the kingdom until a Convention can meet, which is almost the same thing as a Parliament, being composed of the same people, and which they have asked me to convoke for January 22, O.S.

Tomorrow I shall have a great quantity of gentlemen who were formerly members of the Lower House and of aldermen [*deputes*] of this town, who apparently will make the same request before I may give any answer to the Lords who have lately been*with me. I am passive in all this matter, without speaking to anyone whatsoever, although I have been extremely tormented. And if I had wished to give the least encouragement, I am persuaded they would have declared me king, which I do not want, not having come hither for that. What they will do when the Convention meets I do not know, but I fear that they mean to force me to accept what I do not ask for, although I foresee that the world will judge otherwise. If I accept the government, I can send you immediately the help

which in case of
war England is obliged to give to Holland,
which I believe
amounts to 6,000 men, and I can prepare
everything to
make a considerable diversion next spring,
when the Con-
vention or a Parliament will have given
money.¹

Four days later William announces that,
being now pro-
visionally in charge of the government, he is
able to send

¹ Müller, ii. 125-6.